

ATSK No. 219.36435X00  
LID No. P6321

1 1. (Twice Amended) An input/output platform (IOP) access module installed in a host system  
2 for providing input/output device access between the host system and another system, via a data network,  
3 said IOP access module comprising:

4 a Local Transport arranged to provide an interface to an input/output platform (IOP) supporting  
B1 5 an array of input/output devices;

6 a Remote Transport arranged to provide an interface to said another system, via said data network;

7 and

8 a Connection Manager arranged to establish connection services and to create a direct call path  
9 between the Local Transport and the Remote Transport so as to provide access to input/output devices.

1 7. (Twice Amended) A host system, comprising:

2 a processor including an operating system (OS);

3 an array of storage devices;

4 a driver module for exporting local storage device access onto a computer network, said driver  
5 module comprising:

B2 6 a device driver module arranged to provide an interface to said array of local storage  
7 devices;

8 a host driver module arranged to provide an interface to the operating system (OS), said  
9 host driver module comprising a Local Transport which communicates with the device driver

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10 module, a Remote Transport which provides an interface to said computer network, and a  
11 Connection Manager which establishes connection services with remote systems on said computer  
12 network and coordinates functions responsible for creating a direct call path between the Local  
13 Transport and the Remote Transport to provide access to said storage devices; and  
14 a communication layer which supports communications between the host driver module and  
15 the device driver module.

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1 12. (Twice Amended) The host system of claim 9, wherein said host driver module and said  
2 device driver module operate in accordance with an Intelligent Input/Output (I<sub>2</sub>O) specification for allowing  
3 storage devices to operate independently from the operating system (OS).

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1 22. (Amended) A process of exporting storage device access onto a computer network  
2 using an input/output platform (IOP) access module of a host server, comprising the steps of:  
3 providing an interface to an input/output platform (IOP) supporting an array of storage devices;  
4 providing an interface to a remote server on said computer network;  
5 establishing service connection between said host server and said remote server on said computer  
6 network in response to a request from a remote server on said computer network; and  
7 after the service connection between said host server and said remote server on said computer  
8 network is established, enabling said remote server to directly access said storage devices with

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